

CLAIMS

1 1 A method for identifying a mobile wireless terminal upon a transition of
2 the terminal from a first wireless network to a second wireless network, comprising the
3 steps of:
4 receiving in the second wireless network from the mobile wireless terminal a temporary
5 identity information previously used by the mobile wireless terminal to access the first
6 wireless network;
7 identifying a serving node in the first wireless network that last served the mobile
8 wireless terminal prior to transitioning to the second wireless network in accordance with
9 the temporary identity information received from the mobile wireless terminal in the
10 second wireless network;
11 forwarding the temporary identity information of the mobile wireless terminal to the last-
12 accessed serving node in the first wireless network for identification;
13 receiving from the last-accessed serving node in the first wireless network an
14 identification response indicating whether the mobile wireless terminal has been properly
15 identified; and
16 validating the mobile terminal in accordance with the identification response.

1 2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of receiving the
2 temporary identifier information further comprising the step of receiving a Packet
3 Temporary Mobile Subscriber Identity (P-TMSI), a P-TMSI signature and a Routing Area
4 Identifier (RAI).

1 3. The method according to claim 2 wherein the step of identifying the
2 serving node in the first wireless network further comprises the step of identifying the
3 serving node in accordance with the RAI received from the mobile wireless terminal.

1 4. The method according to claim 3 further comprising the steps of:
2 receiving a logical address information from the mobile wireless terminal; and
3 accessing a Domain Naming System (DNS) server to identify the serving node in
4 accordance with the logical address.

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1 5. The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of providing
2 an error message when the serving node cannot identify the mobile wireless terminal
3 from the temporary identity information.

1 6. A method for identifying a mobile wireless terminal upon a transition of
2 the terminal from a wireless telephony network to a wireless Local Area Network (LAN),
3 comprising the steps of:
4 receiving in the wireless LAN from the mobile wireless terminal identity information
5 previously used by the mobile wireless terminal to access the wireless telephony network;
6 identifying a serving node in the wireless telephony network that last served the mobile
7 wireless terminal prior to transitioning to the wireless LAN in accordance with the
8 identity information received from the mobile wireless terminal in the wireless LAN;
9 forwarding the identity information of the mobile wireless terminal to the last-accessed
10 serving node in the wireless telephony network for identification;
11 receiving from the last-accessed serving node in the wireless telephony network
12 an identification response indicating whether the mobile wireless terminal has been
13 properly identified; and
14 validating the mobile terminal in accordance with the identification response.

1 7. The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of receiving the
2 temporary identifier information further comprises the step of receiving a Packet
3 Temporary Mobile Subscriber Identity (P-TMSI), a P-TMSI signature and a Routing Area
4 Identifier (RAI).

1 8. The method according to claim 7 wherein the step of identifying the
2 serving node in the first wireless network further comprises the step of identifying the
3 serving node in accordance with the RAI received from the mobile wireless terminal.

1 9. The method according to claim 8 further comprises the steps of:
2 receiving a logical address information from the mobile wireless terminal; and

3 accessing a Domain Naming System (DNS) server to identify the serving node in
4 accordance with the logical address.

1 10. The method according to claim 7 further comprising the step of providing
2 an error message when the serving node cannot identify the mobile wireless terminal
3 from the temporary identity information.

1 11. A wireless telephony network for identifying a mobile wireless terminal
2 upon a transition of the terminal from the wireless telephony network to a wireless Local
3 Area Network (LAN), comprising:

4 a serving node for identifying the mobile wireless terminal upon access to the
5 wireless telephony network; and

6 an access server for receiving from the wireless LAN temporary identity
7 information from the mobile wireless terminal previously used by the terminal to access
8 the wireless telephony network and for identifying the serving node in the first wireless
9 network that last served the mobile wireless terminal prior to transitioning to the second
10 wireless network by forwarding the identity information of the mobile wireless terminal
11 to the serving node for identification and from the identification response, the access
12 server indicating whether the mobile wireless terminal has been properly identified and
13 forwarding such response to the wireless LAN.

1 12. The network according to claim 11 wherein the identity information
2 further comprises a Packet Temporary Mobile Subscriber Identity (P-TMSI), a P-TMSI
3 signature and a Routing Area Identifier (RAI) received from the mobile wireless terminal.

1 13. The network according to claim 11 wherein the access server has its own
2 RAI distinct from an RAI assigned to the serving node.